In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of textile piece goods in rope form or tubular form ~~with a textile treatment agent (T)~~ by an exhaust process from aqueous liquor, ~~under conditions which would otherwise in the textile substrate favour the formation of transport folds and/or the occurrence of friction in or on the substrate~~ comprising the steps of:

providing textile piece goods;

applying a textile treatment agent (T) consisting essentially of

(T_1) pre-treatment agents,

(T_2) main treatment agents, or

(T_3) after-treatment agents;

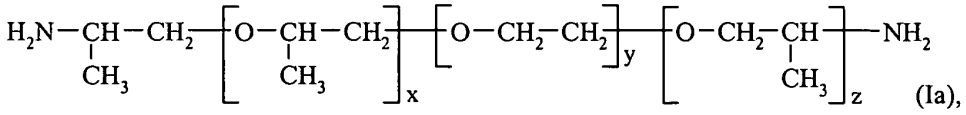
and

applying (P_A) water-dispersible or colloidally soluble polyamides which contain hydrophilic polyalkylene glycol ether chains in the skeletal structure as wet-acting lubricants[.],

wherein said (P_A) is made from

(A_1) aliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic diamines which otherwise contain no hydrophilic components or substituents,

(A_2) a diamine of the average formula



(Ia),

in which x denotes a number ≥ 0,

y denotes a number ≥ 2

z denotes a number ≥ 1,

and the sum x+y+z = 3 to 100, with the proviso that y≥x+z,

and where the molar ratio of (A_2) to the sum of (A_1)+ (A_2) is <95 mol-%, and

(B_1) alkanedicarboxylic acids having 2 to 36 carbon atoms, aromatic dicarboxylic acids having one to three benzene rings, two of which may optionally be fused, or araliphatic dicarboxylic acids which contain 9 to 18 carbon atoms and contain one benzene ring or two optionally fused benzene rings, where aromatic rings may be bonded to further aliphatic, aromatic or araliphatic parts of the molecule, optionally via oxygen,

and optionally monofunctional compounds (E) which are suitable for the end capping of the polyamides, and/or higher oligo-functional compounds (H) which are suitable for the branching of the polyamides.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~for the treatment of textile piece goods in rope form or tubular form with a textile treatment agent (T) by an exhaust process from aqueous liquor under conditions which would otherwise in the textile substrate favour the formation of transport folds and/or the occurrence of friction in or on the substrate~~ according to Claim 1, where ~~characterised in that~~ ~~(P_A) is a polyamide made from difunctional compounds (D), and optionally monofunctional compounds (E) which are suitable for the end capping of the polyamides, and/or higher oligo-functional compounds (H) which are suitable for the branching of the polyamides~~ (A_1) is a C_4-C_8-alkanediamine.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~for the treatment of textile piece goods in rope form or tubular form with a textile treatment agent (T) by an exhaust process from aqueous liquor under conditions which would otherwise in the textile substrate favour the formation of transport folds and/or the occurrence of friction in or on the substrate~~ according to Claim 1 ~~2~~, where ~~characterised in that, as difunctional~~

~~compounds (D),~~

~~(A_1) aliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic diamines which otherwise contain no hydrophilic components or substituents,~~

~~(A_2) aliphatic diamines which contain at least one hydrophilic polyethylene glycol chain,~~

~~and~~ (B_1) is an alkanedicarboxylic acids having 2 to 36 carbon atoms~~, aromatic dicarboxylic acids having one to three benzene rings, two of which may optionally be fused, or araliphatic dicarboxylic acids which contain 9 to 18 carbon atoms and contain one benzene ring or two optionally fused benzene rings, where aromatic rings may be bonded to further aliphatic, aromatic or araliphatic parts of the molecule, optionally via oxygen,~~

~~are employed for the production of (P_A)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~for the treatment of textile piece goods in rope form or tubular form with a textile treatment agent (T) by an exhaust process from aqueous liquor under conditions which would otherwise in the textile substrate favour the formation of transport folds and/or the occurrence of friction in or on the substrate~~ according to Claim [3]1, where ~~characterised in that (P_A) is a polyamide made from~~

(A_1) is hexamethylenediamine ~~an aliphatic diamine which otherwise contains no hydrophilic components or substituents,~~

~~(A_2) an aminoalkylation product of polyethylene glycols having an average molecular weight $\overline{M}_W$ in the range from 200 to 4000 or of copolyalkylene glycols which consists predominantly of ethyleneoxy units and the remainder of butyleneoxy and/or propyleneoxy units, having an average molecular weight $\overline{M}_W$ in the range from 300 to 5000,~~

~~and~~ (B_1) is adipic acid ~~an alkanedicarboxylic acid having 2 to 36 carbon atoms~~.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~for the treatment of textile piece goods in rope form or tubular form with a textile treatment agent (T) by an exhaust process from aqueous liquor under conditions which would otherwise in the textile substrate favour the formation of transport folds and/or the occurrence of friction in or on the substrate~~ according to Claim 1, where ~~characterised in that~~ (P_A) is employed in the form of an aqueous, concentrated preparation (W).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~for the treatment of textile piece goods in rope form or tubular form with a textile treatment agent (T) by an exhaust process from aqueous liquor under conditions which would otherwise in the textile substrate favour the formation of transport folds and/or the occurrence of friction in or on the substrate~~ according to Claim 5, where ~~characterised in that~~ (W) is an aqueous preparation or colloidal solution which is characterised by a content of (P_A) and

(F) a flow-control agent selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, butanediol, hexylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, butyl diglycol and glycerol,

and/or (G) a thickening agent selected from the group consisting of homopolyacrylamides, copolyacrylamide-acrylic acids, and partially saponified polyacrylamides.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~for the treatment of textile piece goods in rope form or tubular form with a textile treatment agent (T) by an exhaust process from aqueous liquor under conditions which would otherwise in the textile substrate favour the formation of transport folds and/or the occurrence of friction in or on the substrate~~ according to Claim 6, where ~~characterised in that~~ (W), in addition to (P_A), (F) and/or (G), contains at least one of the following components

(X) a non-ionogenic emulsifier or a mixture of non-ionogenic emulsifiers or

a mixture of non-ionogenic emulsifiers and anionic or amphoteric emulsifiers or a mixture of non-ionogenic emulsifiers, anionic emulsifiers and amphoteric emulsifiers,

(Y) at least one agent for setting the pH

and (Z) at least one formulation additive selected from

(Z_1) an agent which inhibits bacterial growth or a microbiocide

or (Z_2) reducing agent or a bleaching agent.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~for the treatment of textile piece goods in rope form or tubular form with a textile treatment agent (T) by an exhaust process from aqueous liquor under conditions which would otherwise in the textile substrate favour the formation of transport folds and/or the occurrence of friction in or on the substrate~~ according to Claim 1, where ~~characterised in that~~ (T) is at least one dye or at least one optical brightener.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~for the treatment of textile piece goods in rope form or tubular form with a textile treatment agent (T) by an exhaust process from aqueous liquor under conditions which would otherwise in the textile substrate favour the formation of transport folds and/or the occurrence of friction in or on the substrate~~ according to Claim 1, in the dyeing or optical brightening of textile material made from synthetic polyamide fibres, optionally blended with other fibres, in jet dyeing machines.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~for the treatment of textile piece goods in rope form or tubular form with a textile treatment agent (T) by an exhaust process from aqueous liquor under conditions which would otherwise in the textile substrate favour the formation of transport folds and/or the occurrence of friction in or on the substrate~~ according to Claim 1, in the dyeing or optical brightening of textile material made from synthetic polyamide microfibres, optionally blended with other

fibres of comparable fineness

11. (Currently Amended) Wet-acting lubricant for the dyeing or optical brightening of textile piece goods in rope or tubular form by exhaust methods from aqueous liquor under conditions which would otherwise in the textile substrate favour the formation of transport folds or the occurrence of friction in or on the substrate, characterised by a content of a water-dispersible or colloidally soluble polyamide (P_A) which is defined as ~~in Claim 3~~ in Claim 1.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) Wet-acting lubricant ~~(W)~~ according to Claim 11[2], ~~essentially~~ consisting essentially of (P_A), water and at least one of the additives (F) a flow-control agent selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, butanediol, hexylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, butyl diglycol and glycerol, *

and/or (G) a thickening agent selected from the group consisting of homopolyacrylamides, copolyacrylamide-acrylic acids, and partially saponified polyacrylamides

and optionally at least one of the additives (X) a non-ionogenic emulsifier or a mixture of non-ionogenic emulsifiers or a mixture of non-ionogenic emulsifiers and anionic or amphoteric emulsifiers or a mixture of non-ionogenic emulsifiers, anionic emulsifiers and amphoteric emulsifiers,

(Y) at least one agent for setting the pH

and (Z) at least one formulation additive selected from

(Z_1) an agent which inhibits bacterial growth or a microbiocide

or (Z_2) reducing agent or a bleaching agent.

14. (Cancelled)

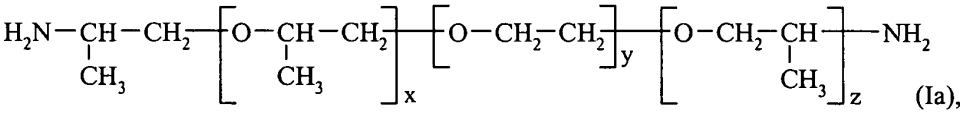
15. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~14~~, wherein (P_A) is removed at the end of the treatment process.

16. (Currently Amended) Aqueous polyamide preparation (W'), essentially consisting of (P_A), (F), (G) and water and optionally at least one of the additives (X), (Y) and (Z), in which (P_A) is as defined in Claim 1, (F), ~~and~~ (G), ~~are as defined in Claim 6, and~~ (X), (Y) and (Z) are as defined in ~~Claim 7~~ Claim 13.

17. (Currently Amended) Polyamide (P_A) which is a polyamide made from

(A_1) an aliphatic diamine which otherwise contains no hydrophilic components or substituents,

(A_2) a diamine of the average formula



(Ia),

in which x denotes a number ≥ 0,
y denotes a number ≥ 2
z denotes a number ≥ 1,
and the sum x+y+z = 3 to 100, with the proviso that y≥x+z,

and (B_1) an alkanedicarboxylic acid having 2 to 36 carbon atoms ~~as defined in Claim 3~~, where the molar ratio of (A_2) to the sum of (A_1)+(A_2) is < 95 mol-%.

18. (Currently Amended) Process for the production of a polyamide (P_A) according to Claim 17, wherein at least one alkanedicarboxylic acid having 2 to 36 carbon

atoms (B_1) is condensed with at least one diamine (A_2) and at least one diamine (A_1).

19. (Currently Amended) Process for the production of the aqueous preparations or wet-acting lubricants ~~(W)~~ according to Claim 11, characterised in that (P_A), optionally as a mixture with (F) a flow-control agent selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, butanediol, hexylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, butyl diglycol and glycerol, and/or (X) a non-ionogenic emulsifier or a mixture of non-ionogenic emulsifiers or a mixture of non-ionogenic emulsifiers and anionic or amphoteric emulsifiers or a mixture of non-ionogenic emulsifiers, anionic emulsifiers and amphoteric emulsifiers, is mixed with water and optionally with (Z) at least one formulation additive selected from
(Z_1) an agent which inhibits bacterial growth or a microbiocide
or (Z_2) reducing agent or a bleaching agent and optionally with an aqueous solution or dispersion of (G) a thickening agent selected from the group consisting of homopolyacrylamides, copolyacrylamide-acrylic acids, and partially saponified polyacrylamides and optionally with aqueous (X) and/or (Y) at least one agent for setting the pH and/or (Z).

20. (Original) Process according to Claim 19, characterised in that an aqueous solution or dispersion of a thickening agent (G) is employed which is a polyacrylamide and/or an acrylamide-acrylic acid copolymer, if desired in salt form, which has been at least partially methylolated with formaldehyde.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) Process for the production of the aqueous preparations or wet-acting lubricants (W) according to Claim 13, where ~~characterised in that~~ (P_A), optionally as a mixture with (F) and/or (X), is mixed with water and optionally with (Z) and optionally with an aqueous solution or dispersion of (G) and optionally with aqueous (X) and/or (Y) and/or (Z).

26. (Currently Amended) Process for the production of the aqueous preparations or wet-acting lubricants (W) according to Claim 16, where ~~characterised in that~~ (P_A), optionally as a mixture with (F) and/or (X), is mixed with water and optionally with (Z) and optionally with an aqueous solution or dispersion of (G) and optionally with aqueous (X) and/or (Y) and/or (Z).